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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,780	01/02/2002	Michel Moulin	58575-277955	3998

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EXAMINER	
HINZE, LEO T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/913,780	MOULIN, MICHEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leo T. Hinze	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover she t with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 April 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,47 and 82-97* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *85 and 86* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,47,87-89,91-95 and 97* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *82-84,90 and 96* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 88, 94, 95, and 97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landsman, US 4,764,815 in view of Eberhard, US 5,437,360.

Landsman teaches a platesetter including:

- Claim 1: a flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate (col. 1, lines 7-9), the system comprising: a supporting bed (26, 28, Fig. 1); drive means for engaging the printing plate in direct contact with the stationary support bed and (30, 32, Fig. 2) sliding ("slidably supported", col. 5, line 35) the printing plate on the support bed in a direction of movement and; an optical head (12, Fig. 1) movably mounted on a stationary bridge (14, 14a, Fig. 1), adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate ("moves transversely across... the surface to be scanned", col. 3, lines 14-15) and being provided for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate (col. 3, lines 5-12);

- Claim 94: a platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate (col. 1, lines 7-9), the system comprising: a support bed (26, 28, Fig. 1) sufficiently large to receive and support the printing plate; drive means (30, 32, Fig. 2) for sliding the printing plate over the support surface in a direction of movement; an optical head (12, Fig. 1) movably mounted on a stationary bridge (14, 14a, Fig. 1) and adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate ("moves transversely across... the surface to be scanned", col. 3, lines 14-15), the optical head being adapted to emit radiant energy onto the printing plate (col. 3, lines 5-12);
- Claim 95: wherein the optical head is adapted to focus the radiant energy onto a focus plane (col. 3, lines 5-12);

Landsman does not teach:

- Claim 1: a stationary supporting bed; drive means for sliding the printing plate on the support bed in a direction of movement;
- Claim 88: wherein the stationary support bed comprises a field of roller bearings extending the length of the platesetter;
- Claim 94: a support bed comprising a stationary support surface to directly support the printing plate with one face of the printing plate in sliding contact with the support surface; and a plurality of bearings configured to maintain a portion of the printing plate at a predetermined distance from the optical head;
- Claim 95: wherein the plurality of bearings are configured to maintain the portion of the printing plate in the focus plane;

- Claim 97: wherein the plurality of bearing compromise a plurality of rows of precision bearing and corresponding plurality of rows of pressure bearings, the rows of pressure bearings being offset from the corresponding rows of precision bearings.

Eberhard teaches a conveying system, including:

- Claim 1: a stationary supporting bed (3, Fig. 1); drive means (2, Fig. 1) for sliding the load on the support bed;
- Claim 88: wherein the stationary support bed comprises a field of roller bearings extending the length of the device (col. 3, lines 7-8);
- Claim 94: a support bed comprising a stationary support surface (3, Fig. 1) to directly support the load with one face of the load in sliding contact with the support surface; and a plurality of bearings configured to maintain a portion of the load at a predetermined elevation (col. 3, lines 7-8; Fig. 2);
- Claim 95: wherein the plurality of bearings are configured to maintain the portion of the load in a plane (Fig. 2);
- Claim 97: wherein the plurality of bearing compromise a plurality of rows of precision bearing and corresponding plurality of rows of pressure bearings, the rows of pressure bearings being offset from the corresponding rows of precision bearings col. 3, lines 7-8; Fig. 2);
- the elimination of pallets or containers for handling the load reduces the space required and the mass that must be moved (col. 1, lines 21-50).

Regarding claims 1, 88, 94, 95, and 97, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Landsman to replace the load handling pallet with a plurality of rows of roller bearings directly supporting the load, because Eberhard teaches that such a conveying arrangement is advantageous in that it reduces the mass that must be moved.

3. Claims 47, 87, 89, and 91-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landsman in view of Eberhard and Bergling, US 4,015,702.

Landsman teaches a platesetter including:

- Claim 47: a flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate (col. 1, lines 7-9), the system comprising: a supporting bed (26, 28, Fig. 1); a carriage for engaging the printing plate in direct contact with the stationary support bed and (30, 32, Fig. 2) sliding ("slidably supported", col. 5, line 35) the printing plate on the support bed in a direction of movement and; an optical head (12, Fig. 1) movably mounted on a stationary bridge (14, 14a, Fig. 1), adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate ("moves transversely across... the surface to be scanned", col. 3, lines 14-15) and being provided for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate (col. 3, lines 5-12);
- Claim 87: a method for imaging a printing plate with radiant energy (col. 1, lines 7-9) in a flat bed platesetter, the method comprising: (a) providing a flat bed platesetter having a stationary support area, (b) disposing a printing plate on, and in direct contact with, the stationary support area: (c) positioning the printing plate on the support bed; (d)

sliding the printing plate in a first direction; and (e) moving a radiant energy emitting head in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction to provide an image on the printing plate (col. 3, line 5 through col. 4, line 37);

- Claim 93: wherein the step of moving the radiant energy emitting head comprises moving an optical head, on which the radiant energy emitting head is mounted, on a stationary bridge across the direction of movement of the printing plate (col. 3, line 5 through col. 4, line 37).

Landsman does not teach:

- Claim 47: a stationary supporting bed; drive means for sliding the printing plate on the support bed in a direction of movement;
- Claim 87: a stationary support area, (b) disposing a printing plate in direct contact with the stationary support area;
- Claim 89: wherein the carriage is configured to hold the printing plate from underneath as the carriage slides the printing plate on the stationary support bed;
- Claim 91: wherein the carriage is substantially narrower than the width of the printing plate across the direction of movement of the printing plate;
- Claim 92: further comprising attaching the positioned printing plate to a carriage which is substantially narrower than the width of the printing plate across the direction of movement of the printing plate.

Eberhard teaches a conveying system, including:

- Claim 47: a stationary supporting bed (3, Fig. 1); drive means (2, Fig. 1) for sliding the load on the support bed;
- Claim 87: a stationary support area (3, Fig. 1), (b) disposing a printing plate in direct contact with the stationary support area (Fig. 1);
- the elimination of pallets or containers for handling the load reduces the space required and the mass that must be moved (col. 1, lines 21-50).

Bergling teaches a method of conveying flat plates, including:

- a stationary support bed of a plurality of rollers (2, Fig. 1);
- a carriage (5, 6, Fig. 2) that is substantially narrower than the width of the plate across the direction of movement of the printing plate and holds the plate (8, Fig. 2) from the bottom (Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 47 and 87, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Landsman to replace the load handling pallet with a plurality of rows of roller bearings directly supporting the load, because Eberhard teaches that such a conveying arrangement is advantageous in that it reduces the mass that must be moved.

Regarding claims 47, 87, 89, 91, and 92, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to additionally modify Landsman to include a carriage that is substantially narrower than the width of the plate across the direction of movement of the printing plate and holds the plate from the bottom, because Bergling teaches such a carriage, and

one having ordinary skill in that art would recognize the advantages of this carriage, such as the functionality of securely holding the plate in place during operation.

Regarding claim 93, the combination of Landsman, Eberhard, and Bergling teaches all that is claimed as discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 82-84, 90, and 96 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 85-86 are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 82, while the use of suction for holding articles is well known, the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious a flat bed platesetter system having all of the elements as claimed, including a carriage that has a base located under a supporting bed, with suction cups at the level where the load is to be supported.

Regarding claim 90, the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious a flat bed platesetter having all of the elements as claimed, including sensors for detecting a printing plate ahead of or behind the printing plate being slid by the carriage.

Regarding claim 96, the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious a flatbed platesetter system having all of the elements as claimed, including a plurality of bearings comprising a first row located under the printing plate and a second row of bearings over the printing plate.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo T. Hinze whose telephone number is (571) 272-2167. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leo T. Hinze
Patent Examiner
AU 2854
9 July, 2004

REN YAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER